

HOUSE RESOLUTION 160
By Fowlkes

A RESOLUTION to honor the Marshall County Chapter of the American Red Cross for 80 years of meritorious service to the community and the state.

WHEREAS, the Marshall County Chapter of the American Red Cross came into being more than eighty years ago, chartered July 5th, 1917 by Woodrow Wilson, then President of the United States, and Eliot Wardsworth, Central Committee Chair of The American Red Cross; and

WHEREAS, since that fateful day in 1917, the Marshall County Chapter has seen their membership grow to more than 500 – one of the smallest chapters in the state, yet one of the largest memberships per capita; and

WHEREAS, as an affiliate of an organization most often recognized for its disaster relief and emergency services, the Marshall County Chapter of the American Red Cross has eighty-six charitable persons on the area Disaster Roster who would lead, coordinate volunteers, set up communications and shelters, provide mass care, handle damage assessment, provide family services, maintain records and registration, set up service centers, prepare food and refreshment for disaster sites, and supply acquisition and transportation services as needed; and

WHEREAS, the disaster relief volunteers are provided with extensive training so they may respond most efficiently and effectively when called into active service; they are

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continuously upgrading their knowledge and skills in order to render the highest quality of service to the people of Marshall County; and

WHEREAS, Marshall County area military forces and their families are fortunate to have the local Red Cross chapter providing two, 24-hour persons trained to handle all emergency calls for them, including calls about the well-being of a service person, loans for emergency needs, and calls about illness or death of persons in active military service; and

WHEREAS, the Marshall County chapter serves as a valuable link in the network of local agencies who would assist each other in times of need; such partners include the Marshall County Emergency Medical Service, the Marshall County Emergency Management Agency, the Berlin Fire Department, the Cornersville Fire Department, the Chapel Hill Fire Department, the Five Points Fire Department, the Mooresville Fire Department, the Belfast Fire Department, the Farmington/Rich Creek Fire Department, and the Lewisburg Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, other sister organizations the Marshall County chapter is associated with includes the local U.G.F., Good Samaritan, the Marshall County Interagency Council, Hanna's House, the Marshall County Sr. Citizen's and the local Health Department; and

WHEREAS, the Red Cross leads the nation in providing blood to caregiving entities for medical emergencies; the Marshall County Chapter takes this duty very seriously and, as a result, the chapter ranks fifth in our state in per capita blood donations; and

WHEREAS, in addition, this laudable organization provides the good people of the Marshall County and Lewisburg area with many valuable community programs and referral services, including HIV/Aids education and CPR/First Aid training; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, the Marshall County Red Cross, in conjunction with the Ladies of the Auxiliary of the V.A. and The Marshall County Senior Citizens, began a program designed to protect the homebound and children of the area and a telephone reassurance service for homebound adults and latch-key kids; "Daily Hello" calls are made each day by volunteers to check on the well-being of their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, this estimable organization was certainly deserving of the recognition it received when the chapter was re-chartered by the national office in 1996; in recognition of 80 years of good works, the local chapter also received a Certificate of Appreciation from the national president, Elizabeth Dole, and the American Red Cross for exemplary service; and

WHEREAS, Marshall County and Lewisburg residents are fortunate to have such caring and dedicated volunteers as those associated with the local chapter of the Red Cross; these members give unselfishly of their time and talents to protect the citizens of the area and provide them with relief services in times of need; and

WHEREAS, one such valuable volunteer is Mrs. Frances Wiley, who heads the organization's blood services and was named 1997 Volunteer of the Year at the chapter's annual volunteer lunch for her good works; and

WHEREAS, another essential member of the volunteer corps is Ted Dunning, the organization's disaster Chair, who has amassed a meritorious fifty-year service record with the Marshall County chapter; Mr. Dunning is a past Chairman of the organization and was Volunteer of the Year in 1996; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Waverly Dunning has followed in her husband's generous footsteps, also logging fifty plus years of donated time; and

WHEREAS, the head of the organizations health and safety program, Ms. Robin Jamison is also an outstanding volunteer deserving of recognition for her exemplary efforts; she has served as a member of the Board of Directors and is a valuable addition to the organization as she is an instructor in CPR, First Aid, HIV/AIDS Awareness, back injury prevention and PDT, just to name a few; and

WHEREAS, in the words of the organization's executive director, Jay Bizaillon, "without a good leader we would all be lost"; as Chairman and member of the American Red Cross Tennessee State Service Council, Jim Bingham has provided the organization with expert leadership and has served the Marshall County chapter with unprecedented devotion; and

WHEREAS, several other outstanding volunteers were recognized for their years of service at the association's recent volunteer lunch; these generous individuals include: Sara McCollum, 40 years; Roslyn Collins, 35 years; Brooks Hodges, 25 years; Mary Paul Lasater, 15 years; Ruth Doss, Harold McIlwain, Patsy Thomas, and Tommy Howell – 10 years; and

WHEREAS, recognized for giving five years of active service were Peter Bizaillon, Wanda Potts, Bob Hopkins, Ray Farley, Robin Jamison, Kathy Mayo, David Jent, Bill Wallace, Sue Morice, Frances Wiley, Re Smith, Elizabeth Cochran, Audrey Marlow, Imogene Ledford, and Marie Beckham; and

WHEREAS, also deserving of recognition from this General Assembly is the Marshall County Chapter's Executive Director, Jay Bizaillon, who has served this charitable and philanthropic organization with alacrity and acuity; throughout his meritorious service, he has exemplified the spirit that is characteristic of a great Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, the Marshall County Chapter of the American Red Cross has proven itself to be the perfect example of an organization totally committed to the highest ideals of public service; it is appropriate that as elected representatives of the state of Tennessee we should specially recognize the Marshall County Chapter and their many volunteers for outstanding service to their community and the people of our state; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby honor and commend the 500 members, volunteers and staff of the Marshall County Chapter of the American Red Cross, an exemplary organization that has served the people of Lewisburg, Marshall County and our great state with diligence and dedication for more than 80 years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final resolving clause omitted from such copy.